

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3028  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006

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CHARGED FROM RD/FI

DETACHMENT 35

NOT SUITABLE FOR MICROFILM

SUBJECT: Meeting with Informant 2584

XOR-1044

Ref: XOR-1062

Project: Grand Rapids

Date: 16 March 1951

OPERATIONAL REPORT:

1. In the course of previous meetings with Informant 2584 covering the period 1948-51, 2584 has at various times given details of his relationships with HITSCHNAU Wolfram (Dr.) of Innsbruck, Land Tirol, French Zone Austria. In the course of these meetings, 2584 indicated the following:

a. 2584 has known HITSCHNAU since early 1945 when they met in Land Vorarlberg as part of a loosely formed group of anti-Nazis maintaining connection in the last days of the war. The group consisted of attachments between 2584, (Dr.) Rudolf BRANN, (Dr.) Karl FORNER, (Dr.) Karl WINKLER, HITSCHNAU, et al, which extended into Switzerland. In this period 2584 and HITSCHNAU formed a close friendship and they mutually decided to form an intelligence service of a purely Austrian nature directed against Communism. It was decided after the cessation of hostilities that 2584 would proceed to Vienna and build up a net while HITSCHNAU, who had managed to find a secure position in the Land Court offices in Innsbruck, would remain in Innsbruck where he would maintain files and coordinate information submitted by 2584.

b. It soon became apparent, according to 2584, that HITSCHNAU was passing reports out indiscriminately, utilizing 2584's name, etc., so as to make 2584 apprehensive of the security of the project. 2584 claims that he attempted to remonstrate with HITSCHNAU but received evasive answers and untruths in response. Shortly thereafter 2584 sought and took up connections with CIC in Salzburg. 2584 informed HITSCHNAU of his US connections at this time.

c. As 2584 came into contact with 35176, the latter managed to cut HITSCHNAU out of the operation to the extent of excluding HITSCHNAU from receipt of reports prepared by 2584. Later attempts to retrieve previously received reports from HITSCHNAU were without results. These attempts consisted of 2584 and 35176 traveling to Innsbruck to contact HITSCHNAU who at that time refused to see 2584. (Comment: At this time, late 1947-early 1948, it is believed that HITSCHNAU was employed by TIB; employment perhaps enjoyed by virtue of his ability to supply reports in actuality prepared by 2584. 35176.) 35176 noted at this time that 2584 was considerably

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(Ref. 88, XOE-1064, dtd 16 Mar 51, Subj: "Meeting with Informant 2584.")

disappointed in BITSCHNAU's double dealing and deceit. It is believed, by 38176, that 2584 was truthful in his statements that he had cut BITSCHNAU out of the operation and was maintaining only casual contacts with BITSCHNAU, contacts which were on BITSCHNAU's initiative only.

2. On 12 March 1951 2584 in the course of a reported meeting (XOE-1062) made statements as outlined below:

a. During December or November 1950, BITSCHNAU asked 2584 if he still maintained contact with US Intelligence or was still engaged in intelligence activities. At this time 2584 stated that he had not had contact with US Intelligence for several years and had discontinued intelligence activities for a similar period. 2584 indicated that he was engaged in writing a book.

b. To a similar inquiry on the part of BITSCHNAU during early 1951, 2584 again gave a negative reply. With 2584's reply BITSCHNAU requested 2584 to meet him in Innsbruck stating that he would like to discuss details of reestablishing and extending their previous intelligence arrangement. BITSCHNAU stated at this time that he was dealing with a third person, that he (BITSCHNAU) had mentioned 2584's name, and that the third person had requested to speak to 2584 personally. BITSCHNAU indicated that if 2584 no longer maintained US connections he was morally free to enter into other arrangements. 2584 refused to travel to Innsbruck inasmuch as BITSCHNAU refused to name the third person. BITSCHNAU then stated that the third person was a French intelligence officer who, with the knowledge of high US officials, was engaged in building up an intelligence network in Austria. 2584 answered by stating that he was willing to support any activity directed against Communism but that he would not travel to Innsbruck.

c. In response to numerous subsequent requests from BITSCHNAU, 2584 traveled to Innsbruck on 9 March 1951 where he met BITSCHNAU. At this time 2584 again informed BITSCHNAU that he no longer had contact with US intelligence; was no longer engaged in intelligence activity; was writing a book; and maintained connections with an Austrian resistance movement.

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(Doc. 28, IDB-1064, dtd 16 Mar 51, Subj: "Meeting with Informant 2584.")

d. At 1830 hours 9 March 1951, 2584 accompanied RITSCHEAU to the Hotel "Arlbergerhof" to meet the previously mentioned French intelligence officers. 2584 met two personalities, who did not mention their names, described as follows: a male about 50 years of age referred to as Major and a male of 33 years of age referred to as Lieutenant. Both personalities made an intelligent impression. RITSCHEAU introduced 2584 as one of the best informed men on KPO matters in Austria whereupon the "Major" commenced questioning 2584 after stating that RITSCHEAU had mentioned 2584's name to him four years ago. The subsequent interview, conducted exclusively by the "Major", was held in the German language; the "Major" and the "Lieutenant" spoke excellent German with a north-German (Reichs deutsche) accent. Side comments were made in the French language.

e. In the course of the interview, during the course of which 2584 gave incomplete and uninformed answers, the "Major" asked the following questions:

"I am seeking collaborators in anti-Communist intelligence activity and am interviewing you on the recommendation of RITSCHEAU."

"With whom did you work with last year?" (2584: I worked with an Austrian (non-existent) who maintained connections with an American.)

"Who was the Austrian?" (2584: I cannot give his name.)

"Do you know that the KPO has made plans to work illegally?" (2584: I believe this to be a fabrication.)

"Do you know RIEDL, IHNG (2584's spelling) and WALTERBAUER?" (2584: I know WALTERBAUER, I have met RIEDL several times; I do not know IHNG.)

"Do you know JANICHK and Prof. GRIMM?" (2584: I only know that they are KPO newspaper editors.)

"Do you know the name LANGHEIN?" (2584: I have heard the name.)

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"Do you know that the KPO has a 'secret service'?"  
(2584: I don't know.)

"Does the KPO have a 'Kader'?" (2584: No.)

"I have made some mistakes in the past and have in some cases been very disappointed. I would like to meet someone who really knows the KPOs. Do you know any of the agents or couriers of KPOs 'secret service'?"  
(2584: I do not know any people of this type; I regard every Communist as a Moscow agent.)

f. In the course of the interview, 2584 gained the impression that "Major" was very disappointed in 2584's answers to his questions and in the course of the interview, and after, informed RITSCHNAU of his disappointment. The interview closed on this note with the "Major" suggesting that if 2584 received any information of value he could relay it to RITSCHNAU for the "Major's" attention. 2584 returned to Salzburg on 9 March 1951.

COMMENT:

2584 was instructed to gradually drop all contact with RITSCHNAU and continue his pretense of working on a book and lack of interest in intelligence activity.

It is recommended that RITSCHNAU be carried by US intelligence as a French agent based on information outlined above.

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